

**SACRAMENTO RIVER CONSERVATION AREA  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MINUTES**

April 26, 2001  
4:00 p.m.

Willows City Hall  
Willows, Ca.

- 1) Chairman Denny Bungarz called the meeting of the Sacramento River Conservation Area to order at 4:05 at the above location. It was determined there was a quorum of (13) voting members present. Don Anderson was introduced as the new landowner representative on the SRCA Board replacing Jason Larrabee.

<u>County</u>	<u>Public Interest</u>	<u>Landowner</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Butte	Jane Dolan	Shirley Lewis	
Colusa	Doug White	Tom Ellis, Alt. (Ben Carter)	
Glenn	Denny Bungarz	Don Anderson	
Shasta	(Glenn Hawes)	Dan Gover	
Sutter	Dan Silva	(Russell Young)	
Tehama	Bill Borrer	Brendon Flynn	
Yolo	Lynnel Pollock	Marc Faye	
Resources Agency			Mel Dodgin
Cal DFG			Diana Jacobs
State Reclamation Board			Pete Rabbon
USF&WS		(Dan Castleberry)	Marie Sullivan
US COE			Mark Charlton
Cal DWR			(Dwight Russell)
Bureau of Reclamation			(Laura Allen)
Names listed in parentheses represent absences			
Also present an estimated audience of 35 interested persons			
Manager Burt Bundy			
Assistant Pat Brown, Recording Secretary			
Cal DWR			Stacy Cepello
Resources Agency			Tim Ramirez

- 2) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, UNSCHEDULED MATTERS – Tom Evans, FWA, requested that the issue of the “Good Neighbor Policy” be placed on the next Board agenda. Tom also requested the names of the subcommittee that will address this issue. Ed Hay, local landowner, repeated his request for a handout on property ownership along the river. He was advised there would be a presentation later on project mapping. John Merz, SRPT, referenced item 10 on the agenda, Activities Update, and requested that the Board lay out the process on how the Board receives and reviews projects, the recognition process. John also requested some clarification on the consensus process. In regards to streamlining the permitting process, John suggested that the Habitat Conservation Plan be pursued and be referred to the TAC. Mark Charlton, COE, gave a copy of the “Corps of Engineers Activities within the Sacramento Valley” report to the Board members and noted it is the same one that is provided to the congressional representatives. Mr. Kelleher, Kelleher, Olivera & Atteberry, requested a correction to the letter received by the Cecils from the Reclamation Board which referenced one parcel owned by the Cecils, it should reference seven parcels. The letter was enclosed with a letter from the

Sacramento River Conservation Area signed by the Chairman of the Board. Denny referred him to Pete Rabbon from The Reclamation Board, who was in attendance, to discuss the change.

- 3) CONSENT CALENDAR - It was moved by Lynnel Pollock, seconded by Bill Borrer, to ratify the letter to Mr. Cecil from the Board Chair. Motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.
- 4) CONSIDER ADOPTION OF MINUTES –Doug White moved, seconded by Dan Silva, to approve the March 29, 2001 minutes. Motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.
- 5) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT- Chairman Bungarz reported on the Executive Committee meeting held prior to the Board meeting. In attendance were Jane Dolan, Denny Bungarz, Burt Bundy, Diana Jacobs, Brendon Flynn, and Ben Carter. Denny Bungarz chaired the meeting. Several items discussed were “Issues to be resolved” which were reviewed at the last Board meeting. On the “Good Neighbor Policy”, it was noted that the TAC would develop guidelines on this issue. The Committee also discussed Safe Harbor and suggested that Incidental Take provisions in current law might be a quicker way to address concerns. DF&G and USF&WS will set up an informational presentation to the Board on this subject. The Committee decided a subcommittee of the Board should be formed to determine what people are looking for regarding a Mitigation Fund. It was suggested that Ben Carter serve as chair of this subcommittee. The PILT and Economic Analysis issues were discussed together and will have follow up reports at the TAC. The Board, at a previous meeting, approved a petty cash fund in the form of a checking account; however, the policy of the Research Foundation that administers the grant requires a cash fund only. The SRCA staff will work to resolve the issue and keep the Committee informed. The SRCA staff has requested a transfer of funds between three accounts in the budget to adjust for costs anticipated for the public informational meetings. This reflects changes in object code only, no change in the total budget amount.
- 6) MANAGERS REPORT – Burt Bundy updated everyone on sub-reach planning and site-specific planning projects. Burt mentioned the 4/16 meeting in **Hamilton City** and some of the questions and concerns that were discussed. Bill Paris, HCCSD, stated there is consensus that the project is both wanted and needed; the arguments now are not whether or not they want it but rather where the placement will be. Burt noted he will be traveling to Washington the week of 4/30 and would like to take a letter of support on this project with him. Mark Faye asked what they would be looking for in Washington and was advised they would be requesting additional funding to expedite the Feasibility Study. Chairman Bungarz distributed a letter from the Glenn County Board of Supervisors in support of this proposed project and asked if there was any objection to continued support by the SRCA Board. There was consensus of the Board to continue support of the Hamilton City project. Burt talked about the possibility of tying a **Woodson Bridge** proposal to federal funding through the Comp. Study or a Section 1135 Study. A draft proposal has been submitted. The project would include placing riprap on the west bank at the bridge and removing rock upstream to allow the river to move over and reduce the erosion on the bank above South Avenue. Mark Charlton, COE, stated \$7.5 million is the limit on a project under Section 1135; the 1135 monies totaling \$50,000,000.00 has been authorized for this year so would not have to go back to Congress for funding. He felt this was a good time to get a project like this off the ground and running. A question was asked about the Palisades, a 1986 project that used 700-800 pylons with netting in an attempt to slow erosion. Stacy Cepello, DWR, gave a brief overview of the project that was successful for a time but after the 1995 floods the river got behind the pylons and they started to enter the channel. DWR declared an emergency and by 1997 most were removed.

Diana Jacobs, DF&G, stated she spoke to Ben Carter, a landowner adjacent to the **Moulton-Weir** project, and they are in the process of addressing three issues that Ben was concerned about. They will also have a very detailed restoration plan in place.

Les Heringer, M&T, gave a brief history of the gravel bar problem at the **M&T/Llano-Seco** pumping plant site. They are getting money from CALFED to fund a study being done by Stillwater Science to determine both a short and long term solution. Les noted that the gravel bar has grown approximately 1300' in the last five years.

The study on the economic impact of public land acquisition and habitat restoration in Glenn County was discussed at the TAC. Glenn County was chosen because it is small and fairly representative of the other counties in the area. Question has been asked as to the use of the study and Burt noted it is strictly informational. The impact to Glenn County was reported at approximately 9.2 million annually by 2015. Burt noted on the benefit side, those projected benefits can't be realized unless the services are there.

- 7) REPORT OF THE PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE – In the absence of Chair Laura Allen, Anjanette Martin reported that the committee held its first meeting in Willows with preliminary discussion on determining what the group saw as its main objective.
- 8) TAC REPORT - Chairman Dan Keppen reviewed the April 19<sup>th</sup> TAC meeting. There were continuing discussions on the IRZ definitions in Reach 1 and Reach 4. The language on Reach 1 will be discussed at a public workshop in Cottonwood on May 14<sup>th</sup> to allow for questions and comments from the local stakeholders. Dan introduced Marie Sullivan, F&WS, who had reported to the TAC on the riprap study addressing the impact of riprap on seven sites that the COE is considering protecting. A question was raised about public input and it was noted there is no public input on Biological Opinions. Marie stated the Service is still working on the draft Jeopardy Opinion with the COE. The F&WS has proposed four different prudent alternatives; if one or more alternatives are implemented there will be no jeopardy opinion. Burt agreed to make the riprap report available to the Board members. Dan Silva recommended the issue of riprap be placed on a future Board agenda for discussion. A suggestion was made that a meeting be held in Reach 4 combining the IRZ definition and the impact of riprap; after further discussion, it was decided not to put the two together but that an informational workshop on the riprap issues in Reach 4 should be planned. Tom Evans, FWA, felt there had been a prior agreement to hold a follow-up meeting in the Reach 4 area on the IRZ. Burt noted there had been no commitment to do that but would if he received direction from the Board to do so. Tom Ellis stated he had asked for written responses to four issues he had raised in his presentation to the TAC in February, 2001. Dan and Burt agreed to work on a response to those issues. Les Heringer referred to the guiding principles in the Handbook that includes using riprap to limit river meander where appropriate and expressed his concerns that this may be lost. Brendon Flynn noted that although the ESA will be the ultimate determining force, it is important to continue to bring information forward.  
Pete Rabbon commented that The Reclamation Board would only condemn property if public safety is affected; if the only reasonable alternative is to take action, they will take property if that is the only way to provide public safety.
- 9) ACTIVITIES UPDATE- Scott Clemons, WCB, discussed four projects on the WCB agenda scheduled for 5/18. The projects include: (1) Consideration of acceptance and assignment of two grants to the F&WS for a cooperative project to acquire and restore 214+ acres in Butte County; Consideration of allocations for a cooperative project with Tehama County Department of Public Works to (2) up-grade and restore boating access at Mill Creek Park and

(3) upgrade and restore the Woodson Bridge Fishing Access facilities (4) Consider an allocation for a grant to SRP for a cooperative project for riparian habitat restoration at Moulton Weir. Sam Lawson, TNC, discussed two transactions, a 54 acre parcel near Dairyville and a 238 acre parcel north of Colusa State Park. Doug White, who met with TNC representatives on the Colusa property, noted that the property owner weighed all the options carefully but the land is very difficult to farm and floods frequently. Sam noted that the planning process for this property will include all stakeholders. Ramon Vega, F&WS, reported on the Comprehensive Conservation Plan, the team has four meetings scheduled for public input. The Environmental Assessment Document is scheduled to go out May 15<sup>th</sup> for a 30-45 day review period. They have submitted a request to CALFED for funds to upgrade their internal water conveyance system for habitat management on the refuge. They are aware of possible impacts in the by-pass and are working to address those issues. Chairman Bungarz advised the group that Ramon's last day would be June 7<sup>th</sup> as he has accepted another position in Albuquerque.

- 10) PROJECT MAPPING - Stacy Cepello, DWR, gave a presentation on the process involved in accumulating data for identification of public lands within the Sacramento River Conservation Area. Most of the data is obtained from county public records and is very approximate. He noted they have also gone to the state and federal agencies to share ownership lists. What they have is the best and most recent information but there will be inaccuracies. John Merz, SRPT, asked about showing public access because not all public lands have public access. Stacy noted it would be difficult to represent that kind of data on the Web because they are a state agency, would need to contract with an outside entity to repackage the data as to where public access is available.

Pete Rabbon announced that their new Board is in place with 6 new members and 1 holdover, Burt Bundy, representative for the northern Sacramento Valley.

- 11) NEXT MEETING, TIME AND PLACE – The next meeting is scheduled for May 24<sup>th</sup> at the Willows City Hall, Willows, at 4:00 p.m.
- 12) ADJOURN – The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Brown, Recording Secretary